

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David Fox on 9/8/09.

3. Please replace the following claims:

*Claim 1:*

A method of searching for work elements for processing in a computing system having a primary queue of work elements and at least one secondary queue of work elements, a numerical priority value being associated with each of said work elements, the method comprising:

setting a priority bar to an initial value;

processing work elements from said primary queue until reaching a work element having a priority less than said initial priority bar;

setting the priority bar equal to a minimum of a priority limit and a highest priority of work elements left on said primary queue and a highest priority of work elements in said at least one secondary queue;

if said primary queue contains a work element having a priority greater than or equal to said priority bar, processing said work elements;

if said primary queue contains a work element having a priority less than said priority bar, processing a work element from said at least one secondary queue.

Claim 3:

The method of claim 1 wherein:

Determining said initial value of said priority bar is determined based on the a priority limit and a priority vector.

Claim 7:

A system of searching for queued work elements for processing, the system comprising:

a primary queue of work elements, a numerical priority value being associated with each of said work elements;

at least one secondary queue of work elements, a numerical priority value being associated with each of said work elements,

a processor in communication with said primary queue and said at least one secondary queue, said processor implementing:

setting a priority bar to an initial value;

processing work elements from said primary queue until reaching a work element having a priority less than said initial priority bar;

setting the priority bar equal to a minimum of a priority limit and a highest priority of work elements left on said primary queue and a highest priority of work elements in said at least one secondary queue;

if said primary queue contains a work element having a priority greater than or equal to said priority bar, processing said work elements;

if said primary queue contains a work element having a priority less than said priority bar, processing a work element from said at least one secondary queue.

Claim 9:

The system of claim 7 wherein: said processor determining said initial value of said priority bar is based on the a priority limit and a priority vector.

Claim 13:

A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for searching for queued work elements for processing a primary queue of work elements and at least one secondary queue of work elements, a numerical priority value being associated with each of said work elements, said storage medium including instructions for causing a processor to perform:

setting a priority bar to an initial value;

processing work elements from said primary queue until reaching a work element having a priority less than said initial priority bar;

setting the priority bar equal to a minimum of a priority limit and a highest priority of work elements left on said primary queue and a highest priority of work elements in said at least one secondary queue;

if said primary queue contains a work element having a priority greater than or equal to said priority bar, processing said work elements;

if said primary queue contains a work element having a priority less than said priority bar, processing a work element from said at least one secondary queue according to priority values in said at least one secondary queue.

Claim 15:

The storage medium of claim 13 wherein: determining said initial value of said priority bar is determined based on the a priority limit and a priority vector.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MengYao Zhe whose telephone number is 571-272-6946. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday, 10:00 - 8:00 EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached at 571-272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2195

/Meng-Ai An/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195